

In the claims

1. (original) A method of increasing the bioavailability of azithromycin, comprising co-administering, to a mammal in need of such treatment, a combination of azithromycin and a p-gp inhibitor.
2. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said azithromycin and p-gp inhibitor are each administered in an amount such that the combination is antimicrobially effective.
3. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said bioavailability increase is measured in blood serum.
4. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered separately.
5. (original) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered by different routes.
6. (original) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is administered orally and said azithromycin is administered intravenously.
7. (original) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said azithromycin and said p-gp inhibitor are both administered orally.
8. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered together in a composition.
9. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the oral bioavailability of azithromycin is increased by at least 25%.
10. (original) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the oral bioavailability of azithromycin is increased by at least 50%.

11. (original) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the oral bioavailability of azithromycin is increased by at least 75%.
12. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said increase is measured as an increase in AUC relative to dosing in the absence of a p-gp inhibitor.
13. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a surfactant.
14. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a polymer.
15. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of block co-polymers of poly(propylene oxide) and poly(ethylene oxide).
16. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is itself a drug.
17. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human.
18. (original) A method of increasing the C_{max} of azithromycin, comprising co-administering, to a mammal in need of such treatment, a combination of azithromycin and a p-gp inhibitor.
19. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said azithromycin and p-gp inhibitor are each administered in an amount such that the combination is antimicrobially effective.
20. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said C_{max} increase is measured in blood serum.
21. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered separately.

22. (original) A method as defined in claim 21, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered by different routes.
23. (original) A method as defined in claim 22, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is administered orally and said azithromycin is administered intravenously.
24. (original) A method as defined in claim 21, wherein said azithromycin and said p-gp inhibitor are both administered orally.
25. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered together in a composition.
26. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the Cmax of azithromycin is increased by at least 25%.
27. (original) A method as defined in claim 26, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the Cmax of azithromycin is increased by at least 50%.
28. (original) A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the Cmax of azithromycin is increased by at least 75%.
29. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a surfactant.
30. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a polymer.
31. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 30, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of block co-polymers of poly(propylene oxide) and poly(ethylene oxide).
32. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is itself a drug.

33. (original) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein said mammal is a human.
34. (original) A method of increasing the concentration of azithromycin in a cell or a tissue, comprising co-administering, to a mammal in need of such treatment, a combination of azithromycin and a p-gp inhibitor.
35. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said azithromycin and p-gp inhibitor are each administered in an amount such that the combination is antimicrobially effective.
36. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered separately.
37. (original) A method as defined in claim 36, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered by different routes.
38. (original) A method as defined in claim 37, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is administered orally and said azithromycin is administered intravenously.
39. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said azithromycin and said p-gp inhibitor are both administered orally.
40. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said p-gp inhibitor and azithromycin are co-administered together in a composition.
41. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that said concentration of azithromycin is increased by at least 25%.
42. (original) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that said concentration of azithromycin is increased by at least 50%.
43. (original) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that said concentration of azithromycin is

increased by at least 75%.

44. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a surfactant.

45. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a polymer.

46. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of block co-polymers of poly(propylene oxide) and poly(ethylene oxide).

47. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is itself a drug.

48. (original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein said mammal is a human.

49. (currently amended) A composition comprising azithromycin and a p-gp inhibitor, said p-gp inhibitor being present in an amount such that, following administration, the azithromycin has an oral bioavailability greater than 37%, provided said composition is non-topical.

50. (original) A composition as defined in claim 49, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is present in an amount such that said oral bioavailability of azithromycin is increased by at least 25%.

51. (original) A composition as defined in claim 50, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the oral bioavailability of azithromycin is increased by at least 50%.

52. (original) A composition as defined in claim 51, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the oral bioavailability of azithromycin is increased by at least 75%.

53. (original) A composition as defined in claim 49, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a surfactant.

54. (original) A composition as defined in claim 49, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a polymer.

55. (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 54, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of block co-polymers of poly(propylene oxide) and poly(ethylene oxide).

56. (original) A composition as defined in claim 13, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is itself a drug.

57. (currently amended) A composition which increases the C_{max} of azithromycin, comprising azithromycin and a p-gp inhibitor, provided said composition is non-topical.

58. (original) A composition as defined in claim 57, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is present in an amount such that said C_{max} is increased by at least 25%.

59. (original) A composition as defined in claim 58, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the C_{max} of azithromycin is increased by at least 50%.

60. (original) A composition as defined in claim 59, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that the C_{max} of azithromycin is increased by at least 75%.

61. (original) A composition as defined in claim 57, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a surfactant.

62. (original) A composition as defined in claim 57, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a polymer.

63. (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 62, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of block co-polymers of poly(propylene oxide) and poly(ethylene oxide).

64. A composition as defined in claim 57, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is itself a drug.

65. (currently amended) A composition which increases the concentration of azithromycin in a cell or a tissue, comprising azithromycin and a p-gp inhibitor, provided said composition is non-topical.

66. (original) A composition as defined in claim 65, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is present in an amount such that said increase is at least 25%.

67. (original) A composition as defined in claim 66, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that said increase is at least 50%.

68. (original) A composition as defined in claim 67, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is co-administered in an amount such that said increase is at least 75%.

69. (original) A composition as defined in claim 65, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a surfactant.

70. (original) A composition as defined in claim 65, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is a polymer.

71. (original) A composition as defined in claim 70, wherein said polymer is selected from block co-polymers of poly(propylene oxide) and poly(ethylene oxide).

72. (original) A composition as defined in claim 65, wherein said p-gp inhibitor is itself a drug.

73. (original) A kit comprising:

(1) a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising azithromycin, plus a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, in a first dosage form;

(2) a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound which is a p-gp inhibitor, plus a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, in a second dosage form; and

(3) a container for containing said first and second dosage forms.

74. (original) A kit as defined in claim 73, adapted for administration to a human.

75. (original) A kit as defined in claim 73, further comprising directions for the administration of said compositions.